

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application. Claims 1-27 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 14, 18, 22, 26 and 27 have been amended. No claims have been added. Claims 8 and 21 have been canceled.

The Examiner rejected Claims 9 and 22 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Applicant has amended Claims 9 and 22 to more clearly set forth the present invention. Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection has been overcome and that claims 9 and 22 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-12, 14-17, 19, 20, 22-25, 27 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kikinis (U.S. Patent No. 6,076,109). However, the Examiner indicated that claims 5, 8, 13, 18, 21 and 26 would be allowable if amended to include all the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claims 1, 5, 13, 14, 18, and 26 and 27 to include substantially all the limitations of the base and intervening claims. More specifically with respect to claims 8 and 21, their base claims were amended to include substantially all their limitations and those of the intervening claims.

Moreover, with respect to claim 27, it was amended to include the limitation from claim 21 as well as add limitations to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) has been overcome by the amendments and the remarks. Applicant submits that claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-12, 14-17, 19, 20, 22-25, 27 as amended are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

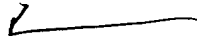
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 has been overcome by the amendments and the remarks and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested. Applicants submit that Claims 1-8, 9-20 and 22-27 as amended are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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